

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07736 141724Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 DODE-00 EB-08 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 ACDA-12
OES-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /078 W
-----016002 150726Z /21

R 141622Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0464
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07736

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:UR, EAIR, JA, CVIS
SUBJECT: TRANSPORT OF CONTROL DATA CORPORATION COMPUTER TO
YUZHNO SAKHALINSK

REF: (A) MOSCOW 3356, (B) 6184 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY WAS OFFICIALLY INFORMED APRIL 14 BY THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT FLIGHT CLEARANCE TO TRANSPORT
CONTROL DATA CORPORATIONS CYBER 172 COMPUTER TO YUZHNO
SAKHALINSK VIA ALASKAN AIR APRIL 20, 23 AND 26 HAS BEEN
GRANTED.

2. THE FLIGHTS, HOWEVER, MAY BE ENDANGERED BY THE LACK OF
SUCCESS THUS FAR IN OBTAINING JAPANESE VISAS FOR THE SOVIET
ESCORT CREW, WHICH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT REQUIRES FOREIGN
PLANES TO HAVE ABOARD WHEN LANDING IN THE SOVIET UNION.
CONTROL DATA CORPORATION AND ALASKAN INTERNATIONAL AIR
PLANNED TO HAVE THE SOVIET ESCORT CREW ENPLANE AND DEPLANE
IN KUSHIRO, JAPAN. EMBASSY OFFICER LEARNED APRIL 14,
HOWEVER, FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CONTROL
DATA CORPORATION, THAT THE ESCORT CREW MEMBERS, KONSTANTIN
KURKO AND GEORGE SVISHCHEV, HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07736 141724Z

VISAS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DELIVERED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING SUCH VISAS MARCH 28
28 TO JAPANESE EMBASSY MOSCOW. (THE ALASKAN INTERNATIONAL
AIRCRAFT PLANS TO BE IN JAPAN APRIL 19-20, 22-23 AND
25-26). THE ESCORT CREW MEMBERS PLANNED TO LEAVE FOR
TOKYO APRIL 16.

3. ON ASSUMPTION JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY MIGHT QUERY JAPANESE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW ABOUT BACKGROUND OF FLIGHT, WE INFORMED JAPANESE HERE OF THE REASON FOR THE VISA REQUEST AND MENTIONED THE COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE FLIGHT. WE ARE NOT SURE WE GOT THROUGH THE LANGUAGE BARRIER. JAPANESE EMBOFF OFFERED TO SEND MESSAGE BUT SEEMED INDEFINITE AS TO WHEN REPLY MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

4. UNLESS DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY PERCEIVE OBJECTION, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY TOKYO COULD APPRISE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF REASON FOR THE VISA REQUEST AND EMPHASIZE NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS ACTION SINCE COMPUTER DELIVERY INVOLVES COMPLEX HANDLING AND IS ALREADY UNDER WAY. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO PROVIDE MFA WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

5. CONTROL DATA CORPORATION WHICH WISHES TO TRANSPORT A CYBER 172 COMPUTER TO YUZHNO SAKHALINSK TO BE USED BY THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF GEOLOGY TO PROCESS SEISMIC DATA, IS WORKING ON A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE. INSTRUMENT REQUIRES SPECIAL STORAGE HANDLING EQUIPMENT, AND THEREFORE SHIPMENT CANNOT EASILY BE DELAYED EN ROUTE. CDC MUST ORGANIZE THE MOVEMENT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, TRANSFER OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM A NUMBER OF PLACES IN THE UNITED STATES TO ANCHORAGE ALASKA AND ARRANGE THE ARRIVAL OF A SHIP IN YUZHNO SAKHALINSK. ACCORDING TO A CONTROL DATA CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE, AS SOON AS OFFICIAL WORD WAS RECEIVED, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 07736 141724Z

THIS COMPLICATED LOGISTICS EXERCISE WAS BEGUN.

6. THIS SHIPMENT IS OF SOME SPECIAL INTEREST SINCE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, IT IS THE FIRST DELIVERY OF CARGO BY A PRIVATE PLANE TO SAKHALIN.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY RESPONSE BY EMBASSY TOKYO AS TO WHETHER THE ESCORT CREW WILL RECEIVE THEIR VISAS ON TIME. THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE ISSUED ON APRIL 17 IN MOSCOW IF ARRIVAL APRIL 19 IN JAPAN IS TO BE ASSURED. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FLIGHT CLEARANCES, COMPUTERS, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW07736
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780162-0337
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780455/aaaabujb.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e79c01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 3356
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2963041
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSPORT OF CONTROL DATA CORPORATION COMPUTER TO YUZHNO SAKHALINSK
TAGS: EAIR, CVIS, UR, JA, CONTROL DATA CORPORATION
To: STATE TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e79c01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014